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6 Strike 3 Holdings, LLC

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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10

11 STRIKE 3 HOLDINGS, LLC,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 JOHN DOE subscriber assigned IP
address 72.134.187.60,

15 Defendant.

16

17 Case Number: 2:23-cv-02868-TJH-SP

18 **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT - DEMAND FOR
JURY TRIAL**

19 **[REDACTED VERSION]**

20 Plaintiff, Strike 3 Holdings, LLC (“Strike 3” or “Plaintiff”), brings this First
Amended Complaint against Defendant, John Doe subscriber assigned IP address
72.134.187.60 a/k/a [REDACTED] (“Defendant”), and alleges as follows:

21 **Introduction**

22 1. This is a case about the ongoing and wholesale copyright
infringement of Plaintiff’s motion pictures by Defendant.

23 2. Plaintiff is the owner of award-winning, critically acclaimed adult
motion pictures.

24 3. Strike 3’s motion pictures are distributed through the *Blacked*, *Tushy*,
Vixen, *Tushy Raw*, *Blacked Raw*, and *Slayed* adult websites and DVDs. With

millions of unique visitors to its websites each month, the brands are famous for redefining adult content, creating high-end, artistic, and performer-inspiring motion pictures produced with a Hollywood style budget and quality.

4. Defendant is, in a word, stealing these works on a grand scale. Using the BitTorrent protocol, Defendant is committing rampant and wholesale copyright infringement by downloading Strike 3's motion pictures as well as distributing them to others. Defendant did not infringe just one or two of Strike 3's motion pictures. Rather, Defendant has been recorded infringing 33 movies over an extended period of time.

5. Although Defendant attempted to hide this theft by infringing Plaintiff's content anonymously, this court's order permitted Plaintiff to serve a subpoena on Defendant's Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), Spectrum, to discover the identity of the subscriber assigned IP address 72.134.187.60, the IP address Defendant used to download and share Plaintiff's works.

6. Based on the response to that subpoena provided by the ISP and Plaintiff's investigation of the subscriber and publicly available resources, Plaintiff identified Defendant as the true infringer.

7. This is a civil action seeking damages under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, *as amended*, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the “Copyright Act”).

Jurisdiction and Venue

8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question); and 28 U.S.C. § 1338 (jurisdiction over copyright actions).

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant used an Internet Protocol address (“IP address”) traced to a physical address located within this District to commit copyright infringement. Therefore:

(i) Defendant committed the tortious conduct alleged in this First Amended Complaint in this State; (ii) Defendant resides in this State and/or; (iii) Defendant has engaged in substantial – and not isolated – business activity in this State.

10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), venue is proper in this District because: (i) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District; and, (ii) the Defendant resides (and therefore can be found) in this District and resides in this State. Additionally, venue is proper in this District pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) (venue for copyright cases) because Defendant or Defendant’s agent resides or may be found in this District.

Parties

11. Plaintiff, Strike 3 is a Delaware limited liability company located at 2140 S. Dupont Hwy, Camden, DE.

12. Defendant, [REDACTED], is an individual currently residing at [REDACTED].

Factual Background

Plaintiff's Award-Winning Copyrights

13. Strike 3's subscription-based websites proudly boast a paid subscriber base that is one of the highest of any adult-content sites in the world. Strike 3 also licenses its motion pictures to popular broadcasters and Strike 3's motion pictures are the number one selling adult DVDs in the United States.

14. Strike 3's motion pictures and websites have won numerous awards, such as "best cinematography," "best new studio," and "adult site of the year."

15. Strike 3's motion pictures have had positive global impact, leading more adult studios to invest in better content, higher pay for performers, and to treat each performer with respect and like an artist.

16. Unfortunately, like a large number of other makers of motion picture and television works, Strike 3 is the victim of mass Internet piracy. Often

1 appearing among the most infringed popular entertainment content on torrent
2 websites, Strike 3's motion pictures are among the most pirated content in the
3 world.

4 ***Defendant Used the BitTorrent File Distribution Network
to Infringe Plaintiff's Copyrights***

5
6 17. BitTorrent is a system designed to quickly distribute large files over
7 the Internet. Instead of downloading a file, such as a movie, from a single source,
8 BitTorrent users can connect to the computers of other BitTorrent users to
9 simultaneously download and upload pieces of the file from and to other users.

10 18. BitTorrent's popularity stems from the ability of users to directly
11 interact with each other to distribute a large file without creating a heavy load on
12 any individual source computer and/or network. It enables Plaintiff's motion
13 pictures, which are often filmed in state-of-the-art 4kHD, to be transferred quickly
14 and efficiently.

15 19. To share a movie within the BitTorrent network, a user first uses
16 BitTorrent software to create a .torrent file from the original digital media file.
17 This process breaks the original digital media file down into numerous pieces.

18 20. The entire movie file being shared has a hash value (*i.e.*, the "File
19 Hash"). A hash value is an alpha-numeric value of a fixed length that uniquely
20 identifies data.

21 21. Hash values are not arbitrarily assigned to data merely for
22 identification purposes, but rather are the product of a cryptographic algorithm
23 applied to the data itself. As such, while two identical sets of data will produce
24 the same cryptographic hash value, any change to the underlying data – no matter
25 how small – will change the cryptographic hash value that correlates to it.

26 22. To find and re-assemble the pieces of the digital media file, *i.e.*, to
27 download the file using BitTorrent, a user must obtain the .torrent file for the
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1 specific file that has been broken down into pieces.

2 23. Each .torrent file contains important metadata with respect to the
3 pieces of the file. When this data is put into the cryptographic algorithm, it results
4 in a hash value called the “Info Hash.”

5 24. The “Info Hash” is the data that the BitTorrent protocol uses to
6 identify and locate the other pieces of the desired file (in this case, the desired file
7 is the respective file for the infringing motion pictures that are the subject of this
8 action) across the BitTorrent network.

9 25. Using the Info Hash in the metadata of a .torrent file, a user may
10 collect all the pieces of the digital media file that correlates with the specific
11 .torrent file.

12 26. Once a user downloads all of the pieces of that digital media file from
13 other BitTorrent users, the digital media file is automatically reassembled into its
14 original form, ready for playing.

15 27. Plaintiff has developed, owns, and operates an infringement detection
16 system, named “VXN Scan.”

17 28. Using VXN Scan, Plaintiff discovered that Defendant used the
18 BitTorrent file network to illegally download and distribute Plaintiff’s copyrighted
19 motion pictures.

20 29. To explain, while Defendant was using the BitTorrent file
21 distribution network, VXN Scan established direct TCP/IP connections with
22 Defendant’s IP address.

23 30. VXN Scan downloaded from Defendant one or more pieces of
24 numerous digital media files.

25 31. Plaintiff identified these pieces as portions of infringing copies of
26 Strike 3’s motion pictures.

27 32. To explain, the VXN Scan system first searched for and obtained
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1 .torrent files claiming to be infringing copies of Plaintiff's works, and then
2 downloaded complete copies of the digital media files that correlate to those
3 .torrent files.

4 33. Plaintiff then compared the completed digital media files to
5 Plaintiff's copyrighted works to determine whether they are infringing copies of
6 one of Plaintiff's copyrighted works.

7 34. The digital media files have been verified to contain a digital copy of
8 a motion picture that is identical (or, alternatively, strikingly similar or
9 substantially similar) to Plaintiff's corresponding original copyrighted Works.

10 35. VZN Scan then used the "Info Hash" value, contained within the
11 metadata of the .torrent file correlated with a digital media file that was
12 determined to be identical (or substantially similar) to a copyrighted work, to
13 download a piece (or pieces) of the same digital media file from Defendant using
14 the BitTorrent network.

15 36. At no point did VZN Scan upload content to any BitTorrent user.
16 Indeed, it is incapable of doing so.

17 37. The VZN Scan captured transactions from Defendant sharing
18 specific pieces of 33 digital media files that have been determined to be identical
19 (or substantially similar) to a copyrighted work(s) that Plaintiff owns.

20 38. VZN Scan recorded each transaction in a PCAP file.

21 39. VZN Scan recorded multiple transactions in this matter.

22 40. For each work infringed a single transaction is listed on Exhibit A.

23 41. For each transaction listed, Exhibit A sets forth the Universal Time
24 Coordinated (UTC) time and date of each transaction, along with (1) the Info
25 Hash value obtained from the metadata of the corresponding .torrent file that
26 formed the basis of the VZN Scan's request for data, and (2) the File Hash value
27 of the digital media file itself.

1 42. Exhibit A also sets forth relevant copyright information for each
2 work at issue: the date of publication, the date of registration, and the work's
3 copyright registration number. In a showing of good faith, Plaintiff has
4 intentionally omitted the title of the work from this public filing due to the adult
5 nature of its content but can provide a version of Exhibit A containing the works'
6 titles to the Court or any party upon request.

7 43. Thus, Defendant downloaded, copied, and distributed Plaintiff's
8 Works without authorization.

9 44. Defendant's infringement was continuous and ongoing.

10 45. Plaintiff owns the copyrights to the Works and the Works have been
11 registered with the United States Copyright Office.

12 46. Plaintiff seeks statutory damages, attorneys' fees, and costs under
13 17 U.S.C. § 501 of the United States Copyright Act.

14 **Discovery Will Likely Show that Defendant is the Individual Who**
15 **Infringed Plaintiff's Copyrighted Works**

16 47. Plaintiff's investigation has determined that Defendant is the person
17 who used IP address 72.134.187.60 to infringe on its copyrighted works.

18 48. Plaintiff utilized the Maxmind geolocation service to determine the
19 ISP that assigned IP address 72.134.187.60 (to determine the correct ISP to whom
20 a subpoena can be sent) and the geographic location of the subscriber of that IP
21 address (to determine the proper venue in which to file an action).

22 49. Maxmind reported that IP address 72.134.187.60 was assigned by
23 Spectrum ("ISP") to a subscriber approximately located in El Segundo, California.

24 50. After the Court granted Plaintiff's request to conduct limited
25 expedited discovery, Plaintiff served the court-authorized subpoena on the ISP on
26 or about May 11, 2023.

27 51. Upon information and belief, the ISP subsequently provided notice of
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1 the subpoena (and this lawsuit) to the subscriber, in compliance with the Cable
2 Communications Policy Act of 1984 (“CCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 551 *et seq.*

3 52. The ISP responded to the subpoena and identified Defendant as the
4 subscriber to whom the ISP had assigned the IP address to during at least one date
5 of infringement and provided Defendant’s address identified in paragraph 12.

6 53. The address identified in paragraph 12 is a single-family home.

7 54. After receiving the ISP’s response to the subpoena, Plaintiff reviewed
8 publicly available information for Defendant and individuals who, upon
9 information and belief, reside in the residence (and therefore had sufficient access
10 to the IP address during the period of infringement).

11 55. Defendant lived at the residence identified in paragraph 12 above
12 during the period of infringement.

13 56. Upon information and belief, Defendant was the only adult male
14 occupant of the residence identified in paragraph 12 above during the period of
15 infringement.

16 57. Upon information and belief, the only other occupant of the residence
17 identified in paragraph 12 above during the period of infringement was
18 Defendant’s spouse and two young children.

19 58. Plaintiff also logged BitTorrent network activity emanating from IP
20 address 72.134.187.60 involving works other than Plaintiff’s 33 copyrighted
21 works during the period of infringement. Collectively, this evidence is referred to
22 as the “Additional Evidence.”

23 59. Plaintiff’s Additional Evidence indicates that IP address
24 72.134.187.60 was used to download and distribute 1,698 files relating to other
25 adult movies and mainstream media (i.e., movies, music, books, software, TV
26 shows, and other works) using the BitTorrent protocol during the period of
27 infringement.

60. This consistent and prolonged history of BitTorrent activity indicates that the infringer is unlikely to be a houseguest or infrequent visitor.

61. Publicly available records do not indicate strong matches between the BitTorrent activity identified in Plaintiff's Additional Evidence and any other individuals residing in Defendant's residence.

62. Publicly available records indicate strong matches between the BitTorrent activity identified in Plaintiff's Additional Evidence and Defendant.

63. [REDACTED].

64. [REDACTED].

65. [REDACTED].

66. [REDACTED]:

a. [REDACTED]

b. [REDACTED];

c. [REDACTED]; and

d. [REDACTED].

67. [REDACTED]:

a. [REDACTED];

b. [REDACTED];

c. [REDACTED];

d. [REDACTED];

e. [REDACTED];

f. [REDACTED];

COUNT I

Direct Copyright Infringement

68. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1-67 are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

69. Plaintiff is the owner of the Works, which are each an original work of authorship.

70. Defendant copied and distributed the constituent elements of Plaintiff's Works using the BitTorrent protocol.

71. At no point in time did Plaintiff authorize, permit or consent to Defendant's copying, distribution, performance and/or display of its Works, expressly or otherwise.

72. As a result of the foregoing, Defendant violated Plaintiff's exclusive right to:

(A) Reproduce its Works in copies, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1) and 501;

(B) Distribute copies of the Works to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease or lending, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(3) and 501;

(C) Perform the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(4) and 501, by showing the Works' images in any sequence and/or by making the sounds accompanying the Works' audible and transmitting said performance of the work, by means of a device or process, to members of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definitions of "perform" and "publicly" perform); and

(D) Display the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(5) and 501, by showing individual images of the works non-sequentially and transmitting said display of the works by means of a device or process to members of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definition of "publicly" display).

73. Defendant's infringements were committed "willfully" within the meaning of 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).

1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

2 (A) Permanently enjoin Defendant from continuing to infringe Plaintiff's
3 copyrighted Works;

4 (B) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the digital
5 media files relating to Plaintiff's Works from each of the computers under
6 Defendant's possession, custody or control;

7 (C) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the infringing
8 copies of the Works Defendant has on computers under Defendant's possession,
9 custody or control;

10 (D) Award Plaintiff statutory damages per infringed work pursuant to
11 17 U.S.C. § 504(a) and (c);

12 (E) Award Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to
13 17 U.S.C. § 505; and

14 (F) Grant Plaintiff any other and further relief this Court deems just and
15 proper.

16 DATED this 11th day of August, 2023.

17 **Law Offices of Lincoln Bandlow, PC**

18 *s/ Lincoln D. Bandlow*
19 Lincoln D. Bandlow
Attorney for Plaintiff
20 Strike 3 Holdings, LLC

21 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

22 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

23 DATED this 11th day of August, 2023.

24 **Law Offices of Lincoln Bandlow, PC**

25 *s/ Lincoln D. Bandlow*
26 Lincoln D. Bandlow
Attorney for Plaintiff
27 Strike 3 Holdings, LLC